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H I S T O R Y
of
S T E V E N S O N F A M I L Y ♀
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
And SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO,
Abridged From His 30,000 Word Ms.
By the Author

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Centennial Observances.

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George Urie Stevenson,

2

THE CLYDE ENTERPRISE

EARLY PIONEER FAMILIES OF
CLYDE AND SANDUSKY
COUNTY.

DOCTOR MATTHEW STEVEN-
SON AND HIS BROTHER
WILLIAM.

By George Urie Stevenson, Gene-
alogist, of Chicago and
Washington.

About three miles northeast of Clyde, in York Township, on the North Ridge stands a large frame house on the north side of the road, that challenges the interest and curiosity of the travelers because of its great Gothic glass window. It is the ancestral mansion of the Stevenson Family, who came out to Sandusky County from their Revolutionary period birthplace in 1830.

The Wyandotte Indian title to the lands of Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandotte counties had been quieted by Federal treaty in 1822, but some squatters had already taken possession of choice parts of the land. One of these was a man named Hill or Hall—first name now lost to posterity—who built a rude cabin on the knoll across the street, to be accessible to a never-failing spring of clear ice-cold water, which had made it a favored spot for generations of red men in their migrations from Upper Sandusky to Ogontz Place, as Sandusky City was then called. Hill sold his "squatter rights" to James Birdseye, uncle and namesake of the future Civil War hero, General James Birdseye McPherson, for a pittance, and the latter conveyed title in 1830, together with a large tract of adjoining land on both sides of North Ridge, to Doctor Matthew Stevenson, who came in that year to establish a home for his growing family of ten children.

Doctor Stevenson was born near Emmitsburgh, Frederick County, Maryland, October 2, 1777, while his father James Stevenson, Jr. was serving with Maryland troops in the Revolutionary War. His mother was Jane Buchanan, of the old Colonial family of that name, distant kinsmen of the President James Buchanan.

He and his brother William (born April 12, 1773, died near Clyde, Ohio, December 16, 1832), were both born on the ancestral farm on Cat-Tail Branch, Maryland.

By the will of their father, James Stevenson, Jr. (born 1725—died 1817) the sons divided the farm, and retained possession until 1830 and 1832, when they sold the ancestral acres prior to moving to Ohio. Here the greater part of their respective families were born, notably the twins, Matthew Asbury and Beverly Waugh, who became residents of York Township.

After Hill's sale of the tract aforementioned, Doctor Stevenson replaced the rude cabin with a story and a half hewn-log house, which stood on the knoll until late in the 1880's. After Doctor Stevenson's death on January 6, 1849, his widow Jane Gilson Stevenson, erected alongside the large frame house, mentioned above, the builder being her nephew by marriage, William Weeks, an expert mill-tight and carpenter, also an early Clyde pioneer. The spacious interior is finished in native black walnut, cut from the land, and the large glass window in the upper story was made a feature of the front, to enable the twins, Matthew Asbury and Beverly Waugh to take daguerreotypes, they being pioneers in that early form of photography in this part of the western country. Incidentally, their sister, Lucinda, was probably the first lady daguerrotypist in America. Many Sandusky County families possess as cherished mementos, the work of this trio in preserving the likenesses of their ancestors. The house stood on its original site until the early '90's, when it was moved across the road, to make room for the present red brick mansion now there. A conspicuous feature of the landscape is the quaint stone tower on the brow of the hill, which encloses a well fed by the aforementioned spring of ice-cold water. It was built by one of the sons, Richard Boyd Stevenson, in 1872, and many tourists seek refreshment from its cooling draught.

In making their migration from Maryland, Dr. Stevenson and family used an ancient Conestoga wagon or "Pennsylvania wane", as they called it. They stopped at the present site of Homestead, Pennsylvania, over the week-end, to visit Mrs. Stevenson's sister, Nancy, the wife of James Whit-

sher. Dr. Stevenson and his wife, both ardent Methodists, consented to prolong their stay a few days on condition that they be permitted to hold a Sunday camp-meeting. This resulted in the formation of the first Methodist church in Western Pennsylvania outside of Pittsburgh, which in 1933 celebrated the centenary of its organization as the Anne Ashley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church of Mulhall, Pennsylvania. A feature of their celebration was the enactment of a pageant in which Dr. Stevenson, his wife Jane Gilson Stevenson, and their daughter Miss Nancy Jane Stevenson (then 13 years old, who later became the wife of William Gurley of Erie County, Ohio), were represented by local members of the congregation.

Arriving at their new home on North Ridge, Dr. Stevenson and his family began the task of hewing a home from the forest. As a "saddle-bags" doctor he ministered to a large clientele in the eastern part of the county, and in the adjoining sections of Erie and Huron counties. Peter Surgoon had come out to Sandusky County from Frederick County, Maryland, in 1824, and it is probable that his example inspired the influx of settlers from the same county in following years. Dr. Stevenson was followed by his brother William and his family in 1832, and the Rifles, the Richards and other North Ridge families about the same time.

Dr. Stevenson and his wife Jane Gilson Stevenson had eleven children, namely: James David Gilson Stevenson, also a physician (born Youngstown, Pa., Dec. 11, 1816, died Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1890), married 1837, Mary Elizabeth Sizer, whose parents Samuel and Love (Love) Sizer were early settlers on the North Ridge. They had a family of six children, one of whom, Miss Elizabeth Jane Stevenson, still survives in Buffalo at the age of 82. One of his sons, Walter Edward Stevenson (born 1848, died 1922) was for many years a resident of Clyde and Green Springs. He married in 1888, Mrs. Mary Miller, nee Hoeke, whose parents, John and Marie (Beure) Hoeke kept hotel for many years in Clyde. Walter E. and Mary Stevenson had two children, all born in York Township, namely: Walter James Stevenson (born 1888), being in the state of Washington; Ethel Elizabeth (born 1890) married 1913 to Frank Bickel, and now living in Detroit, Michigan (born 1891).

married Dan Dumbauld, and now living in Detroit; twins, Harriet and Hortense (born October 30, 1844). Harriet married March 5, 1915 to Nelson Boyer of Bellevue; now living in Toledo. Hortense married Dec. 16, 1920 Haven Sturtevant and has two girls. They live in Detroit.

The oldest son of Dr. J. D. G. Stevenson, was Captain Samuel De Zoscler Stevenson, born on the North Ridge, Feb. 11, 1844, died Buffalo, N. Y., July 24, 1898. During the Civil War he was captain of Co. K, 2d New York Mounted Rifles, and was wounded in the Battle of the North Anna River in Virginia. He came out to Sandusky County to visit his grandmother, then living, and was married in Clyde, April 6, 1877, to Emma Hock (born Fremont, Ohio, Nov. 20, 1858—died Jewel, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1935). She was a sister of Mrs. Mary Miller, who later married Walter Edward Stevenson, the younger brother. They had twelve children, the eldest of whom, Charles Walter Stevenson was born in Clyde, Feb. 8, 1879, and died in the Panama Canal Zone, Aug. 12, 1914. He was a Spanish War Veteran.

The second son of Dr. Matthew and Jane (Gilson) Stevenson was Thomas William Buchanan Stevenson (born Mifflintown, Pa., 1812, died Fayette County, Iowa, 1886) married as her second husband his cousin William Buchanan Stevenson's widow, Ellen D. Comstock, who was a daughter of Oliver and Mary (Stebbins) Comstock, early settlers on the North Ridge. They moved to Iowa, where their two adult sons William Buchanan and Jay Stevenson left descendants, among them Oliver Warren Stevenson and his sister Nellie Irene, Oliver who is married, but has no children, is former Mayor of Fayette, and present Conciliation Commissioner of the U. S. Court of Northern Iowa.

Greenberry Hill Stevenson (1815-1871) died a bachelor, as did his brother Richard Boyd Stevenson (1824-1898), third and fourth sons, respectively. The latter was named for his great-grandfather, David Boyd, a Revolutionary patriot.

Nancy Jane Stevenson (1817-1860) married in 1838, from her father's home on the North Ridge, William Dempster Gurley (1811-1896), youngest son of the famous pioneer Firelands Methodist preacher, Rev. William Gurley (born Ireland 1757, died Erie County, Ohio, 1843). They had

six children, two of whom died in infancy. The eldest daughter, Ann Elizabeth Gurley (1812-1929) married in 1833, Philip Van Natta. They had five children, all of whom married. Their eldest daughter Jennie is a widow of John Graham, Jr., a prosperous landowner of West Huron, Ohio. They have one surviving son, John Bert Graham, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Waxahachie, Texas, who is married and has two sons.

William Franklin Van Natta (born Erie County, Ohio, April 10, 1864) married Martha Dildine, and resides in Green Springs, Ohio. They have one son Bert Dempster Van Natta who is married and resides in Cleveland, O.

Mattie Buck Van Natta (born 1867) married Arthur Osborn of Erie County, and has 5 children, one of whom is Leonard B. Osborn (born 1891), deputy Clerk of Courts of Lucas County, residing in Toledo, Ohio. He married Marie Fuller, daughter of George Fuller of Clyde, and has two infant sons.

Clair Fletcher Van Natta (born York Township, Sept. 17, 1871) married Lizzie Smith and has one daughter Erna Fay. They reside in Toledo, where Clair, a gifted violinist and cellist, is a member of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and a bailiff in the Federal Court.

Leonard Berd Van Natta (born 1877), resided for many years with his parents on the North Ridge. He married 1900, Catherine Ruh, and resides in Cleveland. They have one son Harold Clair Van Natta, D. D. S., who married Lerita Mae Butlin. He is an instructor in the Western Reserve University.

Lucinda Gurley (1844-1931) never married.

Sarah Suzanna Gurley (born Sept. 27, 1846) married 1869 in Sandusky, to James D. Parker (1850-1915) and had five children, the only son being Doctor James Daniel Parker (born 1876), a prominent physician of Sandusky. He married Aug. 29, 1900, Florence Glen Day (born Elmore, Ohio, 1876), and has two daughters and three sons, all of whom are graduates of the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware.

William Fletcher Gurley (1852-1929) married Mary Eunice Richards (born Erie Co., 1856), and moved to Ontario, California, where his eldest son William Miles resides. His second son, Boyd Fletcher Gurley (born Bazaar, Ohio Feb. 23, 1877) is conspicuous in journalism as editor

of Scripps-Howard papers. The third and youngest son James Worth Gurley (1881-1918) married Rena Bennett, and left an only son, James Worth Gurley, Jr. (born 1918 in Los Angeles, California.)

Lucinda Stevenson (born Sept. 15, 1822 in Maryland, died at Tower Hill Homestead, North Ridge, March 20, 1900) never married, but made a home for her brother Boyd and her sister, Mary Elizabeth. As previously stated, she was a pioneer daguerreotype artist, taking photographs in the old frame homestead for the people from miles around.

John Wesley Stevenson (born May 19, 1825, died Sandusky, O., May 22, 1910), was a dry-goods merchant for a time in Sandusky, where he married July 31, 1852, Caroline Converse Matthews (1829-1910) of New England ancestry. Their eldest child, Mary Jane Stevenson (1855-1922) married 1878, John Allen Sweet (born Maine, 1845—died there, 1911), a prominent attorney and member of the drygoods firm of Carson, Pirie Scott & Co., Chicago. They had one son who survived, John Allen Sweet, Jr. of Farmington, Me.

John Wesley and Caroline (Mathews) Stevenson had two other children, sons, one of whom, John Fletcher, died in infancy. The survivor, Frederick Boyd Stevenson (born Sandusky, Ohio, Jan. 6, 1859) ^{Aug. 4, 1890} a prominent newspaper man, ~~was editor~~ For years he was Sunday editor of the Brooklyn Eagle. He married 1888, Anna Constable (1859-1922) of Athens, Ohio. They had one daughter Caroline Fay Stevenson (born in Chicago, Aug. 4, 1890), who is a writer and lives in Flatbush, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Matthew Asbury and Beverly Waugh Stevenson, twins, were born at Cat-Tail Branch, Frederick Co., Maryland, June 7, 1827, and came out to Ohio with their parents when they were three years old. They were alike in their habits to such an extent that they both followed the vocation of daguerreotyping, whereby they amassed a considerable competence, and both married ladies by the surname of Thompson, although not even remotely related. Matthew Asbury was camp photographer at Camp Devens, near Cincinnati, during the Civil War, and was an extensive landowner at one time, owning thousands of acres of land in Ohio, Iowa and Missouri. He was a pioneer in the fish-commission business, shipping Lake Erie fish to Cincinnati

Jan. 30, 1936

THE CLYDE INTERPRETIVE

STEVENSON FAMILY HISTORY

These people happened there
Tolson, Ohio, Jan. 22, 1944, av-
ing to Chicago, Ill., leaving
Jan. 2, and to W. Chicago, Arnold
Army Airfield, Ohio, Feb. 15, 19-
44. They were in Chicago
that time and happened there
because they wanted to
know the name of the man
and the son of the man. In
the case of the man.

Charles Franklin Stewart
born 1882 and 1914 lived in a
house at 1245 1st Street.

17, 726

John (died 1870).
and Mrs. William A.
who have families, and
born Oakland, Calif.

Michael Walter Stevenson
born Monroe, Mich., Apr. 11,
1862 married Fremont, Ohio.

1892 to Mary Anna Harris
born near Creek Twp., Ohio
Nov. 27, 1872. They are residents
of Clyde. They had two children,
viz: Richard Franklin Stevenson
born Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 8, 1893,
and Laura Annetta Stevenson
born York Station, Ohio, May
26, 1897, who is the wife of Ray-

Stevenson (born York
Twp., Ohio, Nov. 12, 1867—died
Santa Co., Calif., Oct. 31, 1901),
graduated from the Clyde High
School, became a school teacher,
went to California in 1892—
with her sister Ida, and married
at Anderson, Shasta Co., Calif.,
Aug. 10, 1892. Clarence Bain-
bridge. They had 3 daughters, two
surviving, viz: Hazel A. Bain-
bridge (who is married) and
Myrian H. Bainbridge, both in
Calif.

Imogene Maude Stevenson
born York Twp., Ohio, Jan. 17,
1872; married Dec. 25, 1889,
from her parents residence on the
North Ridge, to Orville Hafl (born
Townsend Twp., Ohio, Dec. 4, 18-
68). Their two children were born
on their farm near York Station,
and in 1899 the family removed
to Spring Grove, Saray Co., Va., in
the Tidewater Country.
From Williamsburg and
nearby islands. Here Mr. Hafl
an extensive landowner and
stockholder and owner in various
of enterprises. Orville Hafl is
one of the three children of
Mr. Ranben and Laura (Crip-
ple) Hafl, and related to many of
the pioneer families of the
Twp. and Sandusky County.
He is descended from Julian Hafl,
a Dutch soldier in Brazil in 1854,
who a widow and infant son came
to New Amsterdam and became
the progenitors of all the Hafls in
America.

Orville and Imogene Hafl have
a daughter Eva Isabel (born Apr.
11, 1894) married June 5, 1910 to
Wallace Edmund Barnes (born
1880), a partner of Perry County.
They have one daughter, Hazel
Gordon, and three sons, Leonard,
Orville and Ranben Barnes. Their
only son, Ranben Hafl (born Aug.
1898) was a soldier in the A-

and Jane (died 1870).
a baby in 1870 when the family
came out to Clyde. Their son
born in Matamoras, Mex., 1870.
He died in the slave of his parents
married, at the Stev-
enson Homestead on North Ridge
July 26, 1882, and is buried in the
old Stevenson Cemetery. His
tombstone contained a daguerre-
type of the youth, but it has long
since vanished.

Mary Elizabeth Stevenson (born
Tower Hill, Old Homestead, Aug.
20, 1832—died same place March
5, 1907) was the only child of the
family born in Ohio, and the sole
survivor of seven children
who constituted the family. By
the terms of her sister's
and brother's will, Mary
inherited the old homestead and
considerable adjoining property,
which she left upon her death to
her niece Eva Stevenson, and the
latter's husband, Frank Parker,
who have since sold it.

Stevenson Family History
Book 4, 1936

Stevenson Family History. (Continued from Jan. 20.)

The second daughter of Beverly
Waugh and Elizabeth Ann
(Thompson) Stevenson was Eva
Flora Stevenson (born York
Twp., Ohio, Sept. 3, 1863) mar-
ried Dec. 19, 1883, Frank Parker,
foster son of Joseph Stevenson,
son of the first William Stev-
enson. They live on Amanda street
in Clyde. They have no children.
They inherited the old Stevenson
homestead, but have sold it out-
side the family.

William Stevenson, the elder
brother of Dr. Matthew Stev-
enson, sold his portion of the Mary-
land patrimony in 1882, and came
out the same year to settle near
his brother. He bought land in the
"Windfall" (a tract of land that
had recently been visited by a
tree-uprooting tornado) in Green
Creek township, and died there
December 16, 1883, aged 80 years.
He was married at Piney Creek
Presbyterian Church in Frederick
County, Maryland, about May 1,
1805, to Margaret Wilson (called
by the church record "Betsy" by
which name she was affectionately
known to her relatives). She
was closely related to the Dun-
woody family, with which the Wil-
son family was intermarried in
Pennsylvania and Indiana. The
Records of that family give Rob-

son, who was born in 1780, and
died in 1850, and was the father
of the first William Stevenson.
He was born May 18, 1840,
and is buried in the
Hillworth cemetery on North
Ridge. They had eleven children,
and their descendants are among
the prominent families of Sandus-
ky county. The oldest child, Mary
Jane and her sister Sarah Izannah
Stevenson, remained spinsters,
and accumulated a tidy fortune
as milliners in Fremont, Ohio.
They died respectively in 1880
and 1873, and are buried in the
McPherson cemetery, Clyde, O.

William Buchanan Stevenson
(born Maryland, 1807, died 1843)
married Ellen Comstock (born
New London, Conn., 1817—died
West Union, Iowa, 1898). They
had four children, born near
Clyde, two sons died in infancy,
and Amanda Maria Stevenson
(1844-1846) married Gideon
Cloyes (1844-1898) and
had four children, born in Kan-
sas. They are William Elijah
Cloyes (born Dec. 31, 1867), a
prominent attorney of Chicago,
Ill.; Maria Ellen Cloyes (Mrs.
Frank C. Royley), and Gideon and
Guy Cloyes, twins (born 1872).
Gideon died in Falls Church, Va.,
in 1926. Guy survives in Oil Hill,
Kansas. Born left children, Mary
Ellen Stevenson, the
daughter (1893-1894) of
Fayette Co., Iowa, and
Quintus C. Babcock, who married
her. They had no children.

After the death of her first hus-
band, Ellen Comstock married as
her second husband her husband's
cousin, Thomas William Buchan-
an Stevenson, as before men-
tioned.

The second son of William and
Margaret (Wilson) Stev-
enson was James Wilson Stev-
enson (born Maryland, Feb. 11,
1807) died Fremont, Ohio, Nov. 11,
1867) was a cabinet maker and
successful business man. He mar-
ried as his first wife, Eliza Bark-
ness (1815-1889) of the famous
pioneer family of the Western Re-
solve, identified with Clyde, Bel-
levue and Standard Oil. They
had no children. He married sec-
ondly, Jan. 31, 1844, Mary Keith
Hafford (1821-1901), a descen-
dant of Stephen Hopkins and Thos.
and Joseph Rogers of the "May-
flower". They had four children,
viz:

James Hafford Stevenson (born
Fremont, Ohio, Dec. 25, 1846,
died there April 20, 1903). Of in-
ventive and ingenious mind he en-
gaged in the manufacture of ap-
paratus used in the manufacture
for the Pullman Palace Car Co. in
Chicago, the firm being known as
J. H. Stevenson & Company. He
died in 1903, and is buried in the
Hillworth cemetery on North Ridge.

Charles O. Entenman
Librarian

Stevenson Family History.

(Continued from Last Week).

Charlotte Weeks, known popularly as Lottie, was born in Clyde, June 29, 1851, and died unmarried at Mt. Vernon, Ill., June 11, 1903.

Charlotte Elmira Stevenson (born near Clyde, July 9, 1833—died April 5, 1878), the youngest child of William and Margaret (Wilson) Stevenson, she was the only member of the family born after their removal to Ohio from Maryland. She married in 1854, Henry Barnum (1830-1909), buried in McPherson cemetery beside his first wife and his second, who was a widow Reynolds. They had two children, William H. Barnum (born Volcano, Calif., Aug. 14, 1855—died Fremont, Ohio, Jan. 4, 1925, married Fremont, Ohio, Oct. 15, 1878, to Emma J. Galvin (born Oct. 15, 1857, living at 1112 Birchard Avenue, Fremont in 1935). They had one child, Lucy Barnum (born Clyde, Ohio, March 4, 1882), married John Stine. Clarence Barnum, the youngest son of Henry and Charlotte (Stevenson) Barnum was born in Volcano, Calif., March 20, 1881.

Joseph Ephraim Stevenson, ninth child of William and Margaret (Wilson) Stevenson, was born in Maryland, August 12, 1824, died near Clyde, Ohio, July

27, 1893. He was a wealthy farmer. He married Nov. 29, 1842, Mary E. Porter (1823-1914). They had no children of their own, but raised two, Mattie Van Coten and Frank Parker. The latter married Eva Stevenson, daughter of Beverly Waugh Stevenson, previously mentioned. Joseph Stevenson and his wife are buried in the family cemetery on his farm on the west edge of York township.

David Stevenson (born Cat-tail Branch, Maryland, June 29, 1827—died Sandusky county, Ohio, Oct. 11, 1855), was a farmer. He married Mary Jane Stahl and had two children, Olivia and Eva Stevenson, both of whom died in infancy. All are buried in the Elsworth (Stevenson) cemetery on the North Ridge.

Mary Stevenson, the youngest sister of Dr. Marthee and William Stevenson, also came out to Ohio. She was born at Cat-tail Branch, Frederick Co., Maryland, May 6, 1834, and died near Clyde, Ohio, April 17, 1860. She was buried near her brothers in the old Stevenson (Elsworth) cemetery on the North Ridge. She married as his second wife, Elder William Bercaw (born Adams, then York county, Penna., Sept. 1, 1775—died near Clyde, Ohio, Feb. 19, 1840). There were no children of this union, but Aunt Polly was a kind stepmother to her husband's son, Robert Bercaw (who later moved to California), and an athletic girl Susan Bercaw, who died in Sandusky county, and is buried in the old Stevenson burying ground on the North Ridge.

FINIS

